

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, and 15 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,694,152 to Helle. In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 2, 4, 5, 7 – 11, and 19 – 24 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Helle in view of U.S. Patent 6,484,039 to Volland. Claims 6, 12 – 14, 18, and 25 – 27 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As shown in the “Amendments to the Claims,” Applicant amends claims 1 and 15 to include the limitations of claims 13 and 26, respectively, and cancels claims 13 and 26. Applicant also amended claims 14 and 27 to depend from claim 1. Because claims 1 and 15 now include the limitations of allowable claims 13 and 26, claims 1 and 15 are patentably distinct from the cited art. Further, because claims 2 – 12 and 14 depend from claim 1 and because claims 16 – 25 and 27 depend from claim 15, claims 2 – 12, 14, 16 – 25, and 27 are also patentably distinct from the cited art. As such, Applicant requests the Examiner withdraw the obviousness rejection and allow claims 1 – 12, 14 – 25, and 27.


The Examiner also objected to claims 9, 10, 22, and 23 for being unclear. The attached “Amendments to the Claims” replace “another AND record” with “a second AND record” as requested by the Examiner. As such, Applicant requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

In light of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, Applicant submits that claims 1 – 12, 14 – 25, and 27 stand in condition for allowance. As such, the Examiner

is respectfully requested to move the application forward to allowance. Should any issues remain, Applicant asks that the Examiner call the undersigned so that any such issues may be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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